(b) to (e) Second Thermal Power Station expansion project (Stage II) comprises of 4 units of 210 MW each. The project is under implementation. The first unit of the project is scheduled to be commissioned in Novemer, 1990 and the last unit in February, 1993

A sum of Rs. 315.08 crores has been spent upto February, 1989 against a total allocation of Rs. 403.04 crores till 1988-89.

Setting up of Thermal Power Plant at Mettur, Tamil Nadu

2047. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up thermal power plants at Mettur, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Central Government is proposing assistance therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) Two units of 210 MW each are in operation at the Mettur thermal power project and two more units of 210 MW each are programmed to be installed during the Seventh Plan period.

(c) Central assistance is provided to the States in block and not for a specific project.

Digital trunk auto exchange at Madurai

2048. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to install digital trunk auto exchange at Madurai;

(b) if so, what are its salient features; and

(c) what will be its cost and by when it will be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to provide transit facility as part of the digital local exchange.

(b) The salient features of the digital trunk auto exchange are given in the enclosed Statement (*see* below).

(c) The equipment required for Trunk Automatic working is expected to cost around Rs. 15000 per line and is expected to become operational early in the 8th plan period.

Statement

Salient features of Digital Trunk Auto Exchange

1. Throughput efficiency is good.
2. Translation, Routing and charging functions are accomplished with the help of a programme stored in the memory of a computer.
3. Alternate routing of trunk calls is quicker and easier.
4. Opening, Closing, Addition, Deletion of trunks can be quickly accomplished by giving instructions to the exchange Computer through a keyboard. Change of tariff can be easliy introduced.
5. Equipment design and installation practices are improved resulting in short installation and testing duration.
6. Performance monitoring, Diagnostic facility and automatic restoration of faults are carried out by the inbuilt Computer in the exchange.
7. Centralised management and supervision functions for a group of exchanges.